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# THE NEGRO WORKER

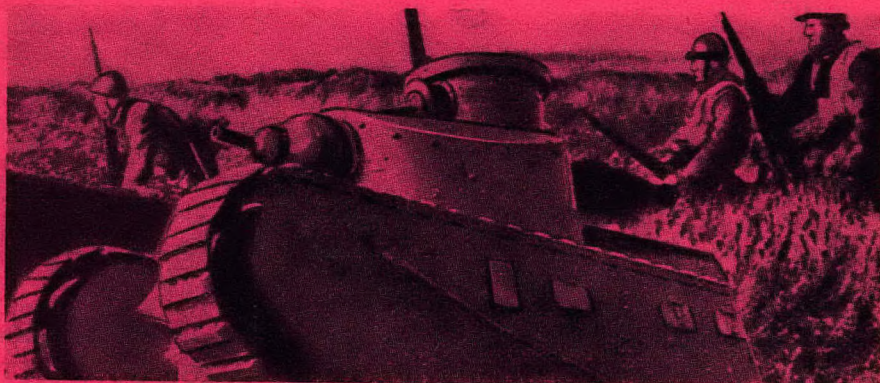
No. 5

15. May 1932

Vol. 2



**SOVIETS FOR PEACE**



**CAPITALISTS FOR WAR**

**Price 5 cents**

**Price 2 pence**



***Editors are invited to reprint articles and resolutions  
which appear in the "Negro Worker".***

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***Editorial Board:*** George Padmore (U. S. A.), Editor-in-Chief.

Contributing Editors: J. W. Ford, Cyril Briggs, D. B. Amis  
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**ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMITTEE  
OF NEGRO WORKERS, 8 ROTHESOODSTR., HAMBURG, GERMANY**

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**Notice to our Readers.**

All cheques, money orders and registered letters must be made payable to:  
**The International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers:**  
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# THE NEGRO WORKER

No. 5

May 1932

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## Editorial Notes

### Soviets For Peace — Capitalists For War

For fifteen years the Soviet Government has struggled for peace. When the workers and peasants seized power in Russia in November 1917, their first act was to send over the radio **a message to the world, calling for peace**. The wireless stations of Europe, listening anxiously for war news from Russia heard this call — and promptly jammed the ether, so that the workers would not know what was going on.

On the following day the Soviet Government issued a series of decrees outlining its policy on all questions. The second of these decrees invited "all belligerent nations and their Governments to begin immediate negotiations for a just and democratic peace. The only response from the Allies was cries of "Traitor" and curses for "deserting" the cause of mass slaughter.

Three weeks later the Soviet Government announced that it refused to continue "this unreasonable and pointless massacre" and proposed to open **peace negotiations with Germany**. Twice were these negotiations postponed to give the Allies an opportunity to join in. The only response was a more intense use of poison gas on the Western Front.

When peace between the Soviets and Germany was concluded, the Allies promptly broke off diplomatic relations and sent expeditionary forces into Russia. Through three years of intervention the Soviet Government took every excuse for proposing an end to the conflict, even going so far as to reply through its press to anonymous telegrams on the question.

But peace only came with the defeat of the Allies and their "White" puppets.

In 1921 the Soviet Government called a meeting of Baltic States to discuss a reduction of armaments, and offered to reduce the Red Army to 200,000 men (that is, to one quarter of its then size) within eighteen months, if the other Baltic powers would reduce their armies in proportion. This proposal was evaded, however, and the Conference broke up with a joint declaration that it would "fully support the principle of limitation of armaments". (Since then the Baltic powers have been supplied with more and more armaments by Britain and France under the pretence that they are needed against "Soviet aggression".)

In the following year the Soviet Union was invited to take part in a European conference at Genoa. At the first session of the Conference, Chicherin, head of the Soviet delegation, demanded that Disarmament be made the first item on the agenda. The reply of the Imperialists came through the mouth of Barthou, the French representative: "This question cannot be discussed. It has



been removed from the agenda of the Commission . . . I now categorically reply No!"

For five years thereafter the Soviet Union did everything to encourage normal friendly relations with its neighbours, particularly Turkey, Persia, Afghanistan, and China. The unequal treaties of tsarist days had long ago been abolished by the Soviet power and replaced by just agreements. These agreements were revised and put into proper shape.

Then, in 1927, the Soviets were again invited to a European Conference, at Geneva to discuss disarmament. Litvinoff was the Soviet representative, and it was here he made his famous proposal; that the way to prevent wars was — simply to disarm! He showed how complete universal disarmament could — if



*Litvinoff, Commissary for Foreign Affairs of  
the Soviet Union*

the nations really desired it — be carried out within a period of four years, and offered that the Soviets would take the lead in carrying it out.

**Total universal scrapping of all forms of armaments was and remains the fundamental principle of the Soviet Union on the question of disarmament.**

On that occasion the proposal was rejected, amid the contempt of the capitalist statesmen and the sneers of reformist leaders.

Litvinoff thereupon outlined a new practical proposal for partial all-round disarmament. The imperialist statesmen hastily adjourned the session to prevent their hypocrisy being still further exposed.

Since then, the Soviet Union has taken the initiative in securing **non-aggression pacts** with several of its capitalist neighbours. Japan — significantly enough — refuses to sign such a pact. Why, Because she is now preparing to attack the Soviet Union on the Manchurian frontier.

\* \* \*



At the present disarmament conference in Geneva, Litvinoff has again put forward the demand for total all-round disarmament.

In addressing the Conference he said:

The Soviet Government, from the very first days of its existence, condemned war as an instrument of national policy . . . **Once war is excluded as an instrument of national policy the Soviet Government sees no need for maintaining armies and other armed forces . . .** The Soviet Delegation considers that we must endeavor to make war itself impossible since it is the people **who suffer**, both in the victorious and defeated countries, in fact as the last war has shown us, the people in all countries . . . (This is a very significant statement which every worker must understand. — Ed.)

. . . The sole aim of the Soviet Government is the building up of socialism on the territory of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union requires neither the increase of territory, nor interference in the affairs of other nations, to achieve its aim (of peaceful economic construction), and could therefore do without army, navy, military aviation and all other forms of armed forces. It does, however require the assurance that there will be no attempts against Soviet territory; it will only feel this assurance if other states also agree to give up their armed forces.

This statement of Foreign Commissar Litvinoff tells simply, boldly, without diplomatic tricks, that the Soviet Union wants peace, aims at no conquest of foreign territory, stands ready to abolish its army and navy, if the other powers do likewise.

The capitalist politicians knew that Litvinoff spoke in the name not only of the workers and peasants of the U. S. S. R. but of millions of toilers throughout the world. And still, only one country, Turkey, supported the Soviet proposal. After all, acceptance would mean a speedy end to the war in China, and the attempts of the Japanese, with the support of British, French, and American imperialisms to attack the Soviet Union.

The Negro workers in Africa, America, and the West Indies, who have been used as cannon-fodder in the last war must not let themselves be misled again. They must join with the workers of the rest of the world in supporting the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union in their struggle for peace.

\* \* \*

### French Rule In The Colonies.

The opinion is widespread among the Negro petty bourgeois intellectuals in the United States, as well as in the British African colonies, that the French imperialists treat "their" colonial peoples "better" than the American, British, Belgian, Japanese and other imperialists. They have the belief that the Negroes in the French colonies are all considered as "hundred percent" French citizens, and are not discriminated against. Therefore, much would be gained, if only Negroes could obtain everywhere the same "liberty" and "equality" as their brothers in the French colonies. This is one of the most dangerous illusions which the French imperialist propagandists have been able to "put over" the middle class Negroes who live under other imperialistic yokes.

It may be true, that African princes, sons of chiefs, and upper class Negroes studying in France, or visiting Paris are treated more politely than is by usual the custom in America or England. And it may also happen, that the French capitalists and militarists, in order to more effectively rob the African peasants of their land and mobilize them into the army as cannon-fodder, as in the last world war, occasionally appoint a black faced lackey, like the traitor Blaise Diagne, to an important position in the state apparatus. But it would be a



fatal error for the Negro workers in America or the West Indies to believe that these hypocritical gestures of the French imperialists, these little Parisian courtesies (which, by the way, is good propaganda and better business for hotel managers and restaurant keepers) do not really mean a damn to the 56 millions of colonial toilers in Africa, Martinique, Guadeloupe, and other colonial lands, enslaved by French imperialism.

The Negro workers must understand, that the system of imperialism, — whether it disguises itself in "Stars and Stripes", the "Tricolore", the "Union Jack", the "Rising Sun", or any other symbol of oppression, — is everywhere crushing down with the same cruelty upon the colonial masses.

Elsewhere in this issue of the "Negro worker" we are pleased to publish an article on Madagascar, which will serve to expose the French imperialists who have not only stolen the island from the natives, but are treating them worse than slaves.

\* \* \*

### Darrow — Defender Of Lynch Law

Clarence Darrow, self styled "friend of the Negroes" and the idol of Negro middle class intellectuals like Dubois, Pickens and Walter White, is now in the Hawaiian islands actively engaged in helping four white American bourgeois lynchers in "beating" the law.

At the age of 75, this much boosted "humanitarian" and "liberal", after pocketing the "trifling" sum of 2,000 dollars out of the lickspittle leaders of the N. A. A. C. P. under the lying pretext that he was in sympathy with the Scottsboro boys, stands openly exposed before the toiling masses, not only of America, but throughout the world, as a hypocrite, mountebank, and upholder of lynch law.

No sooner had Darrow pocketed the money subscribed out of the sweat and toil of Negro workers to defend nine black children who are today faced with the most bloody frame up in the history of American imperialism, he sailed away to the tropical isles to defend the very system of mob law that he was supposed to condemn in Alabama. It is a truism, that "you may fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time".

And Darrow, like the other so-called white liberal "friends" of the Negro toiling masses, thanks to the sharpening of class lines in America, due to the economic crisis, are more and more exposing themselves for what they are — the vilest enemies of the Negro masses, the upholders of lynch law, and jim-crowism and the slanderers of colored men as "rapists".

There is no argument for the lynch-law system of the white oppressors that Darrow has overlooked. His first move was to obtain a typical Southern lynch-law jury — a jury from which all dark-skinned people would be barred. By peremptory challenges, he managed to keep off the jury most of the dark-skinned people. That he did not manage to get a completely "Nordic" jury-box is not Darrow's fault.

Darrow fought to inject into the trial the "rape" angle of the case — the usual lying charge of the Southern lynchers against Negroes.

In order to justify this brutal, cold blood murder, Darrow tried to "prove" that the four aristocratic white lynchers suffered from "temporary insanity". Some weeks ago, a white American bourgeois lawyer shot a Negro worker by the name of Willi Patterson through the bars of the jail in Birmingham, Alabama, in the presence of the prison officials and was later acquitted by an all white jury on the ground that he suffered from "temporary insanity".

The line of defense adopted in the Hawaiian case will be welcomed by the capitalists and landlords of the Southern States of America for it will afford



them freer scope in spreading mob law among the Negro workers and farmers, assured that as long as they are able to engage the services of a charlatan like Darrow, lily-white juries will be guaranteed and "temporary insanity" pleaded.

The present lynch-terror against native workers in Hawaii is following a course familiar to Negroes in the United States. Beginning with the lynching of Kahahawai, the capitalist press of the U.S. set in motion a series of vile slanders against the native Hawaiians, claiming that they are especially prone to "rape" — the usual fake excuse of the white exploiters to lynch Negro workers in America.

A special committee of the U.S. Senate was set up to "investigate" conditions in Hawaii. Their report and their recommendations are all in the direction of more iron rule to suppress the workers of the Pacific.

The white boss press is attempting to make of the events in Hawaii, a war of races. What these events actually show is the determined efforts of the American bosses to crush the native workers. The U.S. has an eye to preparation for a coming war, and Hawaii is the most powerful naval base that this country has in the Pacific. It is not accidental that war maneuvers have recently been in process there, and that the United States has now decided to concentrate its entire fleet in Pacific waters.

Darrow's appearance in Hawaii is aiding the Yankee imperialists in carrying through their plans. The Negro masses in America must not only repudiate Darrow, but must denounce the misleaders of the N. A. A. C. P., the bootlickers and servile worshippers of this unscrupulous Chicago lawyer.

\* \* \*

### Trouble In The West Indies

We have repeatedly pointed out in the columns of this journal, the terrible economic exploitation and imperialist policy of oppressive taxation imposed upon the workers and peasant masses in the Caribbees, and the burning necessity for the West Indian workers at home and abroad to wake up and take a more active part in the building up of an anti-imperialist movement which will alone enable them to meet the tyrants on an equal footing.

Elsewhere in this issue appears an appeal by the Editor of the "**Grenada West Indian**" which confirms the warning which we have always given to the West Indian workers. The "Negro Worker" is in profound sympathy with the toiling masses of Grenada, but we do not agree with the methods of meeting this imperialist offensive, as indicated by Mr. Marryshow.

We have absolutely no illusions about sending a delegation to the Colonial Office. We have seen too many of these useless excursions coming to London, not only from the West Indies, but from the African colonies. Not many weeks ago we happened to run across a group of these "loyal subjects of the King" from Trinidad. From all indication it appears that all that came out of this mission was, that two lawyers and a labour fakir — who for years played the role of lackey to such notorious Labour imperialists as MacDonald and Passfield — got a free trip across the Atlantic out of funds subscribed by a starving population.

It is high time that West Indians who pose as leaders stop this kow-towing business of sending memoranda, petitions, and deputations to England. It is no use kidding ourselves that we can at the same time fight our oppressors and beg them for favours. We must stop this "monkey" business of appealing from Cesar to Cesar. Furthermore, this kind of humbug merely creates harm, for it helps to support the illusion which missionaries and other so-called friends of the colonial peoples try to foster among the masses that the Secretary of State is different to the bureaucrats on the spot. The truth is that such people



as Vans Best and Blood, the appointees of Downing Street, are only able to run amuck in Grenada, because they know damn well that they have the support, not only of that die-hard-red-neck Tory slave driver, Cunliffe Lister, but also such imperialist parasites, as Sir Samuel Wilson, the notorious ex-governor of Trinidad who is the real czar of the West Indies Department of the Colonial Office, and the very man under whom Vans Best served as Colonial Secretary in Trinidad. They are all birds of the same feathers.

West Indian workers, whether at home, in America or England, must learn from the experiences of India and Ireland. They must not put their faith in the lying promises of the British imperialists and their touts, whether white or black. They must depend upon their own organized might, which alone will enable them to rid their island homes of such bloodsuckers as Vans Best and Blood.

Workers, peasants and militant intellectuals of Grenada, organize your ranks into an anti-imperialist movement. Demonstrate on the streets, as you have recently done, in order to dramatise before the whole world the sufferings of a starving, bankrupt, ruthlessly crushed down and exploited people. If need be you must prepare to call a general strike. Grenada will have the sympathy and the support of the working class throughout the world, especially the British workers, who, after their bitter betrayal of the Labour Party, and their ever increasing misery are learning to realize that they will never be able to emancipate themselves unless they support the struggles of the colonial peoples for freedom and self-determination.

G. P.

## War in the East

### Negro Workers, Fight Against Intervention!

By Cyril Briggs.

The monstrous counter-revolutionary plans of Japanese imperialism for armed intervention against the successful building of Socialism in the Soviet Union are openly stated in the pamphlet "Presenting Japan's Side of the Case", published by the Japanese Association in China.

No longer daring to pretend contempt for the Soviet Five-Year-Plan, world imperialism, with the Japanese imperialists in the role of spearhead, are now preparing to start the most reactionary of wars—war against the proletarian dictatorship, war against the rising, flourishing world of Socialism, of working-class emancipation, of liberation of the former oppressed nationalities and national minorities.

The pamphlet admits a tremendous improvement in the material and cultural conditions of the Soviet masses as a result of the overthrow of Tsarist-capitalism and the establishment of the proletarian dictatorship. "The people of Russia have the satisfaction of knowing that the profits from their toil are being expended for the betterment of their living and working conditions and for national defense. The billions that roll into the state treasury from official enterprises and co-operative farms are used to purchase all manner of railway, textile, electrical, mining and other industrial machinery; to erect houses, lay out new cities; to build roads, waterworks, sewers, public utilities, schools, social and amusement centers and other betterments designed for public welfare."



And for this reason it is necessary to wage a war of annihilation against the workers' fatherland because the success of the Soviet Five-Year-Plan "will bring a revolution in world economy", "a new and better outlook will be created for the other workers of the world", and this will result in "disaster to other industrial nations, and overturn the existing social order" (p. 11).

**"Japan sees the handwriting on the wall and her military leaders have appealed to the right of self-defense" (p. 34).**

Already the triumphant advance of Socialism in the Soviet Union is stirring the oppressed masses of Asia to throw off their chains, to overthrow their native and imperialist oppressors.

**"The Soviet philosophy has permeated all of Central Asia" (12).**



*Japanese Marine in Shanghai Shooting down Chinese Workers*

Dying capitalism must defend its loot, its "right" to rob and oppress the toiling masses. Revolutionary China must be destroyed, China dismembered, victorious Socialist construction in the Soviet Union interrupted, the hopes of the toiling masses of the whole world, based on the glorious achievements in the building of Socialism in the Soviet Union, destroyed; the lives of tens of millions of workers sacrificed. All in order to postpone the inevitable destruction of the insane, accursed capitalist system.

That which was secretly stated in the notorious Tanaka Document of 1927, in which was laid down the program now being faithfully carried out in the present robber war of Japanese imperialism against China and the fast maturing plans for an armed attack against the proletarian state, is now openly stated in the present pamphlet, "Presenting Japan's Side of the Case."

But it is no longer a question of words. Japanese troops are already mobi-



lized on the Soviet border. Tsarist White Guard elements in Manchuria are being organized and armed by the Japanese. Japanese War Minister Araki has openly stated in the Japanese Diet that Japan is to send more troops into Manchuria, that Manchuria is to be converted into a military base against the Soviet Union, and, moreover, that the situation arising out of Japan's robber aims in Manchuria is "more serious than the Russo-Japanese War" of 1905. And the American imperialist press has hailed Japan's decision to send more troops into Manchuria, towards the Soviet frontier, as a "return to the big objective"—armed intervention against the Soviet Union.

Defense of the Soviet Union is defense of the interests of the whole world working class! Negro workers! Rally to the fight against the Japanese robber war! Against the imperialist war inciters and war criminals! For the immediate withdrawal of all imperialist troops and gunboats from China! Against the partition of China and for the defense of the Chinese Soviet districts! For the defense of the Soviet Union and socialist construction! For brotherly solidarity with the Soviet Union and for socialist emancipation of all exploited masses and oppressed colonies!

Remember that we are among the most oppressed of oppressed colonial peoples. That the only way in which we can win our freedom is by uniting together with the working class of all races and the exploited peoples of all lands against the imperialist class, whether it be British, American, French or Japanese.

## The Scottsboro Campaign

### Boys Appeal from Death Cells to the Toilers of the World

Montgomery, Ala., April 1.

From the death cells in Kilby Prison, where they have been held under conditions of the most ghastly torture ever since the mock trials in the lower court at Scottsboro, Ala., the eight Scottsboro boys send the following appeal to the workers of the whole world to rally to the mass fight to smash the hideous frame-up and lynch murder verdicts:

"From the death cell here in Kilby Prison, eight of us Scottsboro boys is writing this to you.

"We have been sentenced to die for something we ain't never done. Us poor boys been sentenced to burn up on the electric chair for the reason that we is workers—and the color of our skin is black. We like any one of you workers is non of us older than 20. Two of us is 14 and one is 13 years old.

"What we guilty of? Nothing but being out of a job. Nothing but looking for work. Our kinfolk was starving for food. We wanted to help them out. So we hopped a freight—just like any one of you workers might a done—to go down to Mobile to hunt work. We was taken off the train by a mob and framed up on rape charges.

"At the trial they give us in Scottsboro we could hear the crowds yelling, 'Lynch the Niggers'. We could see them toting those big shotguns. Call 'at a fair trial?

"And while we lay here in jail, the boss-man make us watch 'em burning up other Negroes on the electric chair. 'This is what you'll get,' they say to us.



"What for? We ain't done nothing to be in here at all. All we done was to look for a job. Anyone of you might have done the same thing—and got framed up on the same charge just like we did.

"Only ones helped us down here been the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights. We don't put no faith in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. They give some of us boys eats to go against the other boys who talked for the I.L.D. But we wouldn't split, nohow. We know our friends and our enemies.

"Working class boys, we asks you to save us from being burnt up on the electric chair. We's only poor working class boys whose skin is black. We shouldn't die for that.

"We hear about working people holding meetings for us all over the world. We asks for more big meetings. It'll take a lot of big meetings to help the I.L.D. and the L.S.N.R. to save us from the boss-man down here.

"Help us boys. We ain't don nothing wrong. We are only workers like you are. Only our skin is black.

"(Signed) Andy Wright, Olen Montgomery, Ozie Powell, Charlie Weems, Clarence Norris, Haywood Patterson, Eugene Williams, Willie Robertson."

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## The Origin of Lynch Law in America

Karl Lynch was a Quaker in the State of Virginia. In the middle of the 18th century that State was in the grip of a severe crisis. Many unpunished crimes were committed there, as a result of the bad management of the government and particularly of the juridical authorities. Quaker Lynch then called his friends together. These friends were, like Karl Lynch, himself, "respectable" men, loving their god, their bible and social order (members of the "Society of Friends", to which President Hoover belongs today. No reason why this gentleman of the White House enjoys this national "sport" so well that he has never said a word against it or raised a finger to stop it.) They founded a sort of Supreme Court, and appointed Karl Lynch to be the chief judge. This "court" legalized a wild and bloody punishment of the defendants, even when the latter could not be found guilty. Sometimes the defendants were not even subjected to cross-examination. It was quite enough for the bloodthirsty mob to howl wildly for execution, in order for the prisoner to be hung or to be burned on the "autodafé" according to the traditions of the inquisition.

Later this "justice" spread to other States and has become a sort of "national institution" which is in force up to the present day in most of the American States. It is encouraged by the majority of the capitalist press, the preachers, and everywhere it is tolerated by the state authorities.

According to the custom of this brutal Lynch "justice" any white person who considers himself abused or witnesses an "injustice", assumes the right of gathering a mob to capture the so-called culprit and amidst savage cries execute him.

Under the influence of the Ku-Klux-Klan lynching raged particularly in the Southern States. In the State of Alabama alone 107 lynchings took place within a period of 2 years. More than 200 Negroes were "handed over to the mob" and killed within a few weeks in the year 1868 — in the States of Mississippi the most beloved sport of the whites was to hunt down Negroes. From the end of the Civil War up to 1868 Texas is attributed with the honour of 1035 lynchings.

It is absolutely impossible to establish the exact number of lynchings and



of murdered Negro toilers who have fallen victims to the flaming race hatred. According to official data for the period 1890—1900; 1865 Negroes were lynched; from 1900 to 1910; 921; from 1910 to 1921; 840; and during the following 7 years 304. But along with the deepening of the economic crisis and the sharpening of the class struggle in the U.S.A. grows the number of victims of this class hatred by those people who stimulated race hatred. In the year 1929; 33; in 1931; 79 people were lynched.

This in brief gives the history of the origin and development of lynch law in America, instituted by Quakers, — people who pride themselves as pacifists and lovers of the Negroes and oppressed humanity. Karl Lynch has taught present day capitalist America one of the most effective methods of dividing up the black and white workers and oppressing them both alike in order to maintain the system of rent, profit and interest.





## Burn The "Nigger!"

The circumstances under which a Negro named Henry Lowry, about forty years of age, was lynched typifies the practice as it has developed in the United States. The story of this outrage was written on the scene of the lynching by a reporter of a capitalist newspaper, who describes the incident as follows:

"More than 500 people stood by and looked on while the Negro was slowly burnt to a crisp. A few women were scattered among the crowd of Arkansas planters who directed the gruesome work. Not once did the slayed beg for mercy despite the fact that he suffered one of the most horrible deaths imaginable. With the Negro chained to a log, members of the mob placed a little fire of leaves around his feet. Gasolene was then poured on the leaves, and the carrying out of the death sentence was under way.

"Inch by inch the Negro was fairly cooked to death. Every few minutes fresh leaves were tossed on the funeral pyre until the blaze had passed the Negro's waist. As the flames were eating away his abdomen, a member of the mob stepped forward and saturated the body with more gasolene. It was then only a few minutes until the Negro had been reduced to ashes.

"Even after the flesh had dropped away from his legs, and the flames were leaping towards his face, Lowry retained consciousness. Not once did he whimper or beg for mercy. Once or twice he attempted to pick up the hot ashes in his hands and thrust them into his mouth in order to hasten death."

A correspondent of the "Memphis News Scimitar", another Southern bourgeois paper, wrote the following description of the lynching of a young Negro worker in Tennessee.

"I watched an angry mob chain a Negro to an iron stick. I watched them place wood around his helpless body. I watched them pour gasolene on this wood. And I watched the men set this wood on fire. I stood in a crowd of 600 people as the flames gradually crept nearer and nearer to the helpless Negro. I watched the flames climb higher and higher encircling him without mercy. I heard his cry of agony as the flames reached him and set his clothes on fire.

"Oh, God!" he shouted. 'I didn't do it. Have mercy.' The blaze leaped higher. The Negro struggled. He kicked the chain loose from his ankles, but it held his waist and neck together against the iron that was becoming red with intense heat.

"Have mercy, I didn't do it—I didn't do it!" he shouted again and again.

"Soon he became quiet. There was no doubt that he was dead. The flames jumped and leaped about his head. An odour of burning flesh reached my nostrils. I felt suddenly sickened. Through the leaping blaze I could see the Negro sagging supported by the chains.

"When the first odour of the baking flesh reached the mob, there was a slight stir. Several men moved nervously.

"Let's finish up," someone said.

Instantly about twelve men stepped from the crowd. They piled wood on the fire that was already blazing high. The Negro was dead, but more wood was piled on the flames. They jumped higher and higher. Nothing could be seen now for the blaze encircled everything.

"Then the crowd walked away. In the vanguard of the mob I noticed a woman. She seemed to be rather young, but it is hard to tell about a woman of her type, strong and healthy, apparently a woman of the country. She walked with a firm even stride. She was beautiful in a way.

"The crowd walked slowly away.

"I am hungry," someone complained, 'let's get something to eat.'"

Thus ended another act of the great drama of American civilisation!

(From: "The Life and Struggles of Negro Toilers", by George Padmore.)



# Appeal to West Indians Overseas

Fellow West Indians —

There is trouble in the West Indies, your island-homes.

A serious constitutional struggle has been precipitated in Grenada by the local Government which must be met without shrinking or blinking.

For several months Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council in Grenada have been trying to help Government meet the adverse financial situation in a broad spirit of fairplay.



*A Group of West Indian Reformist Politicians.*

Government would have none of it. A silent Procession of Protest, 10,000 strong, took place in Grenada against a Customs Bill which was intended to spread starvation in the land. We forced the repeal of that Customs Ordinance, and the Government have not forgiven us for that.

So as to bring about relief in taxation, the Elected Members and Nominated Unofficial Members recommended, among other things, that the salaries of Government Officers, over £250, should be reduced by ten per cent.

Government refused to touch such salaries. Everybody the wide world over is expected to get on in these days with reduced salaries and incomes, but we have been made to understand that salaries are sacred in Grenada where Officials are concerned.



The Colonial Secretary of Grenada, Mr. H. R. R. Blood, is harder of heart than the Governor in this matter. And yet Mr. Blood was sent here at a salary of £1,000 after Unofficials said they wanted a man at £800. That £200 extra was forced on us, but Mr. Blood will not give one penny back to help Grenada in its financial difficulties.

At one meeting of the Legislative Council, when the Unofficials, Nominated and Elected, pressed for a ten per cent cut in certain salaries, and the Governor refused to consider it, the Elected Members asked leave to retire from the Council in protest. They retired.

The Governor later asked that he should be given time to refer to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in England, and requested Unofficials to send in a Memorandum to him of their views on the question for transmission to the Secretary of State. This they did.

After weeks of waiting a meeting of Council was called. The Governor published a reply from the Secretary of State which agrees with him that there should be no cut in salaries. It is very easy for a Governor to get the Secretary of State to agree with him. Unofficials pleaded that there should be a cut, that Officials should make some sacrifice with the rest of the community, but the Governor said "NO!"

The Nominated Members, Messrs J. T. de la Mothe, Frank Alexander, John Munro, and the Elected Members, G. Elmore Edwards, John Fleming, T. A. Marryshow, W. E. Julien and Fred Paterson then left the Council, with the permission of the Governor, in protest against such tyranny.

Unofficial Members have the solid backing of Grenada as a whole. The Chamber of Commerce, the Agricultural Association, the Grenada Workers' Association have solidly made recommendations for economy which the Government have refused to accept.

Unofficials having retired from the meeting of Legislative Council, the Governor promptly ordered that the Estimates be passed with only Officials present. This was done. The Officials therefore voted their own salaries!

The Elected Members will resign their seats in Council as the last protest they can make, but the trouble will exist if it is not taken up root and branch.

### **West Indians Overseas must help us to win a notable victory in this matter.**

I suggest that a delegation leave these parts for England to see this matter through with the Imperial Government. Our brethren overseas must help in financing the undertaking.

Cold, calculated lies are told about us in the West Indies to Secretaries of State so far away, and it is necessary that we send a delegation to England to expose the fraud of it.

For many reasons, if I am to go as a member of that delegation, I will prefer not to accept one penny for the purpose from anybody in Grenada or from any source in Grenada whatever. There are others that should be sent from here I am willing to go if West Indians overseas help me to do so.

Dominica is in similar trouble. The Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council there have also had to retire from Council in protest against a heartless Government that would pile more taxation on the suffering people of an impoverished island rather than touch the sacred salaries of Officials.

The position is serious. The West Indies are in danger. We must play a strong hand now.

I suggest that West Indians Overseas, be they in America, Panama, Cuba, Canada, Maracaibo, Columbia, or else, get together without delay and form Committees to stand back of me in this fateful hour.

I went to Great Britain alone in 1921 and brought out the Wood Commission,



I can go even alone, if others cannot go, in 1932 and bring out a Royal Commission to examine into the rotten Official situation in the West Indies.

My aim is to make the West Indies safe for the return of our scattered brethren abroad, should they feel like it, safe for their kith and kin here, safe for posterity.

The days of that Officialdom in the West Indies, intoxicated with a power that craves more power still, ought to be numbered. I expect the West Indian abroad to pull his full weight in this crisis in the West Indies.

Take this matter to heart, and let me hear quickly in reply to this in S.O.S. from Grenada.

Yours for West Indian Advance,

T. ALBERT MARRYSHOW.

Elected Member in the Legislative Council for S. George.

President of the Grenada Workers Association.

Editor of THE WEST INDIAN.

GRENADA, February 19, 1932.

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## How the French Imperialists Are "Civilizing" Madagascar

By B. Jan.

### Before the Invasion.

There are about four million natives living in Madagascar, an island, somewhat bigger than the territory of France. At various times, during three centuries, the French imperialists endeavoured to obtain a permanent foothold in that country, but had made very little headway. After having fought again the natives for two years in 1882—1884, they finally seized Madagascar in 1896.

At the time of the French "conquest", agriculture was giving fine results to the industrious native population. The Malagasy people owned more cattle per head than any other people in the world. Scientists and travellers who visited the island reported not only about the splendid physical development of the people, but also about their well regulated tribal life. Neither was there a basis, at that time, for the usual hypocritical excuse of imperialist robbers, that these happy islanders needed the French to bring them the "blessings" of Christian "civilization". For at the time of the invasion there already stood 20 churches in Antananarivo, the capital, more per head of the population than in Paris, Christianity had been introduced into the island in 1810. Out of a population of between three to four millions, there were more than 500,000 known and registered Christians. And, as an American bourgeois writer puts it, — "from the standpoint of morals, the Malagasians would have been more warranted in taking over France than in being taken over".

As a matter of fact, it is interesting to note, that, while the last independent native ruler, Queen Ranavalona, had issued a decree against all idol worship and superstitions such as voodoo practices, the French "civilizers" set this law aside, and thus threw the less enlightened masses in far-out country districts again at the mercy of native charlatans. The superstitions, the spirit of intertribal hatred which these exploiters of their own people created in the minds of the most backward groups of the population, the atmosphere of fear and distrust, suited the French invaders, for it enabled them to fasten the yoke of domination tighter and tighter on the necks of the Madagascar toilers.

But this is only the old, old story. The French, like all imperialist plunderers in all colonies, were really not out for any "civilizing mission", when they



**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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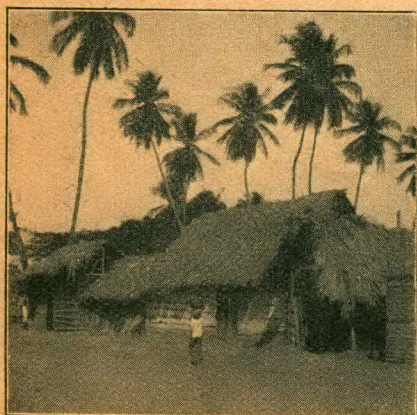


landed their troops of over 20,000 men, and their naval force, consisting of three cruisers and eleven dispatch and gunboats on this peaceful island. They were after the spoils to be gained from this extraordinary rich country, which, in the hands of an industrious population, produced, among many other things: Rice, coffee, sugar, tobacco, rubber, manioc, and vanilla, the forests were rich of valuable woods; there were plants for medical purpose; cattle breeding, silk weaving was well developed; while the mineral riches of the soil—gold, graphite, etc. — promised likewise big dividends for the French capitalists. Furthermore, France wanted to make the island a market for her manufactured goods, an outlet for her capital, and recruiting reservoir for her colonial army.

#### **After the conquest.**

Now, how do the people of Madagascar live today, under French rule?

The first thing the newcomers did was to introduce taxes on the natives (including a polltax, and a special tax on land, cattle and houses). In some



*Native huts taxed by the imperialists.*

parts of the island, especially among the Sakalava tribe, it took the French years to enforce their robbery system. A number of fights took place on account of this taxation, during which the French conducted regular warfare against the "rebels", burnt up villages, and murdered thousands of men, women, and children, or drove them off their own land. While the economic situation of the natives, due to their enslavement and the world economic crisis has gradually become worse and worse during recent years, their taxes have been increased, especially in the cities.

Madagascar, unlike several other French possessions, is not represented in the French Parliament. There is only a so-called Economic and Financial Delegation, composed of twenty-four French white citizens and twenty-four natives. These, together with four European and two members of a "Consultative" Council of Administration are supposed to yearly "examine" the government budget proposals. It goes without saying that the colonial government has always been able to enforce its policy, with or against the "consulted" native representatives. This is not only true for the taxes imposed; but it can also be seen from the fact that public works were started in Madagascar, in order to create

(Continued on page 18.)



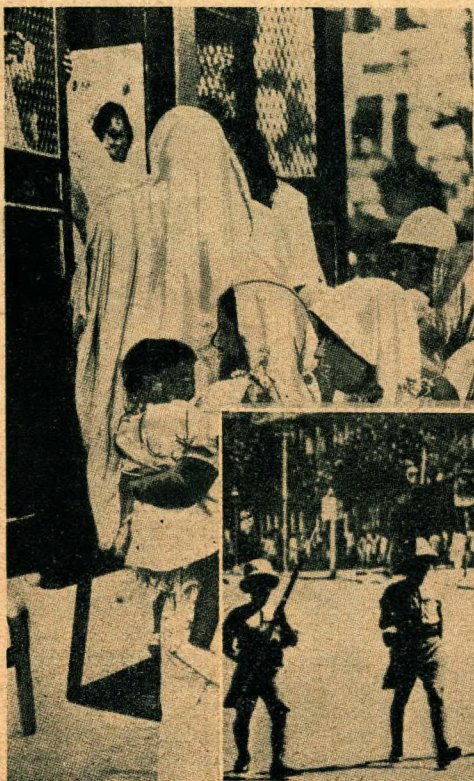
# Under The Yoke of Imperialism

## How Britain Exploits India

By BRADMAN.

British imperialism, faced with the growing revolutionary movements of the toiling workers and peasants of India, has by its ruthless Ordinances and brutal military terror, turned the country into an armed camp and instituted a reign of terror which resembles martial law in all its brutal aspects. Newspapers are suppressed, the right of assembly denied, unprecedented powers are conferred on magistrates, and special tribunals have the right to pass death sentences. Thousands are being arrested each day and all forms of organization which fight against this brutal reign of terror are suppressed. India has become similar to Ireland under the Black and Tans.

Millions of peasant farmers are forced to exist on small holdings of four acres, which under most favorable circumstances cannot support them. Of the huge agricultural population, 37 million are landless and six million are debt slaves. In the towns thousands of workers are faced with wage cuts in the



1) *Indian Women and Children Sent to Jail*



2) *British Troops marching through the streets of Bombay*



already appalling low average rates of pay, less than one shilling per day. Short time, rationalization, unemployment, and speeding up systems confront the workers in India as in Britain.

The impoverished peasants are faced with increased taxation. In Chittagong 52 villages are called to pay an additional police tax within fourteen days.

In many areas the peasants are organizing campaigns against increased taxation, payment of rents, and ejectments. Such movements are ruthlessly suppressed, as in Burmah, where it is claimed that 10,000 peasants have been murdered by the armed forces of imperialism.

The revolutionary struggle of the peasants and workers develops year by year. In the past the Indian National Congress under Gandhi has been able to control this huge force by his advocating non-violence and submission to all the brutalities of British imperialism. Slowly the great majority of the toiling masses of India—who were denied all forms of elementary education—are beginning to understand the games played by the agents of British imperialism with their policy of non-violence.

In March, 1929, the government of India commenced its campaign against the class organizations of the workers and peasants by the arrest of 31 of their foremost leaders and placing them on trial at Meerut on a charge of "conspiracy against the king." The majority of these heroic fighters, who included the whole Executive Committee of the workers' and peasants' party, have been incarcerated in jail since March, 1929, and now the Government of India is carrying out its brutal campaign of terror in every town and village throughout India.

In every part of the Empire—Canada, Ireland, Cyprus, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies—campaigns of terror are being carried out with the knowledge and consent and direction of MacDonald and the National Government in Britain. The Labour Party and the Independent Labour Party play their role in assisting this policy aiming at the subordination of millions upon millions to the interest of the blood-thirsty imperialists, who are cutting wages, creating armies of unemployed, and speeding up the inhuman systems of exploitation of the working class in Great Britain also. The fight for the independence of India from British imperialism and the liberation of the toilers of India as well as Africa and the other colonies from capitalist exploitation is inseparable from the fight of the British working class against wage cuts and all forms of capitalist exploitation. The fight is against one common class enemy — British imperialism.





(Continued from page 15.)

profitable investment for French bankers and to facilitate speculations of foreign landowners and traders. For the purpose of carrying out these so-called public works, the colony had to contract loans. Later, further loans had to be made for the liquidation of former loans, and as a result, from the time Madagascar has been "blessed" by French administration, a public debt of £ 4,200,000 has been contracted: It goes without saying that the yearly interests on these loans have to be paid from taxes extorted out of the sweat and blood of the Malagasian workers and peasants.

Together with the public works, another gift of European "civilization" which has been lavishly bestowed upon the natives, is: Forced Labour. Officially, this is said to have been abolished in 1901. But the truth is that, until the present day thousands of natives are being condemned yearly by the native tribunals of "justice" to be employed under the forced labour system. This "punishment" is inflicted upon these natives for the most trifling "crimes" and constitutes a profitable source of cheap labour for the white rulers.

The Malagasians are also forced to serve in the French colonial army. In peace time the troops in Madagascar are made up of 5,736 natives and 1,542 Europeans. The police and militia, consisting of 3,300 natives, are maintained out of the local budget. It is a fine expression of the unbroken independent spirit of the Malagasies that they can claim for themselves the fact that not one Malagasy served willingly in the French army during the world war. There is no doubt that the Malagasian youth of today is going to live up to this anti-militarist tradition, when the French imperialists will again try to carry out their ruthless desires of setting the world aflame by attacking the first Workers' Country, Soviet Russia. There is certainly not going to be one Malagasian youth, who would permit the French imperialists to use him as cannon-fodder.

#### **Capitalist Terror.**

What has aroused, more than anything else, the spirit of protest and revolt among the natives in recent years, is the system of French "justice" as it is being administered in Madagascar.



*Forced Labour in Madagascar*



*Natives Driven from their Own Land*



Under this presumably most "liberal" colonial power, France, there are two district systems of "Justice" instituted in the island. One, represented by the usual French courts, — for the "civilized" people, that is, the whites and the native capitalist class, and another, represented by tribunals composed of administrative officials, for the native toiling masses. This system of "justice" is based on a decree of 1909, and although there is a possibility to "appeal" from the lower to higher tribunals, it makes no difference to the poor people for they are entirely at the mercy of autocratic white and native officials.

As a result, hardly a day passes without some shocking outrages against the working masses in the name of "justice". For instance, a native by the name of Rahitsaka who was working on a forced labour gang, because he defended himself against the blows of his white overseer, was tied to a tree, cruelly beaten by his torturer in this position and then left so for three days. His friends were even prevented from giving him food. Again, another native, by the name of Rapaoi, serving a term of imprisonment because he could not pay his taxes, was hired out to a white railway official as a cook, but suddenly disappeared and it is feared that he has been beaten to death for the ridiculous "crime" of not having cooked the soup, one day, to his master's taste. Editors who dare to reveal these and other cruelties in their papers are being persecuted, heavily fined and imprisoned.

To enumerate all such cases would make a book. There is however one case, going on at present, fought out day by day between the French slave masters and the awakening Malagasian masses, which deserves our special interest. It shows the beginning of an organized united struggle of the Malagasians.

Last year a cooperative Society was organized at Antananarivo, (the capital, with a population of over 70,000 called "Union des Coopérateurs Malgaches", the purpose of which is to distribute the chief commodities necessary for the consumption of the toiling population, to members, without a trade profit. This Cooperative is affiliated with the "Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommation" in France as well as with the "Magasin de Gros des Coopératives de France". The purpose of the organizers of the cooperative evidently was to make themselves "independent" — as they hoped — from their imperialist masters, by providing for their consumption on their own cooperative basis. The French authorities, in order to crush every attempt of the natives to improve their economic conditions, have directed their attacks upon the cooperative movement. For example, from the very first day that the Cooperative has opened, in Sept. last in Antananarivo, the imperialists and their watchdogs have persecuted the clerks on all sort of frame up charges. They have been hauled before courts where they have been fined and imprisoned; the police has spied upon and tried to intimidate the customers, and when the editors of the working class papers (which appear under the names of "**L'Aube Nouvelle**", and "**L'Aurore Malgache**") dared to publish the facts of these outrages, they too, have been reminded that the Madagascar people — to use these comrades' words — are only French citizens for the paying of taxes and serving in the army, but they are not supposed to even enjoy the doubtful legal "rights" of a Frenchman.

By any "normal" procedure, the authorities, if they had any objections against the Cooperative, would have had to frame up a case against the Society as such, or against its president, — who is a white Frenchman. But in this way they would never have been able to win any argument against the Society which was perfectly legally organized. Therefore, what they did and are doing, is to accuse the native clerks of the shop, after provoking them, of all kind of "crimes", such as disobeying police orders, etc. These they can put before the



native tribunals and there they can do with them what they like. The comrades involved have often even refused to lend themselves to the farce of an "appeal" to the higher court, because they would get as little "justice" there as in the lower one.

This persecution of the Malagasian Cooperative by the French authorities and their lackeys and spies among the police has now been going on for half a year. More and more the sympathetic interest not only of the revolutionary workers in France but of the international working class, has been aroused. But more real help is needed.

The organization of this Cooperative can only be considered as a first step in the march towards a strong, active anti-imperialist movement of the Malagasian workers and peasants. There is an old theoretical school of Cooperationists in France, whose spokesman is **Charles Gide**, who want to make us believe that social justice and economical freedom can be obtained by peaceful cooperation, — without any class struggle. Our brothers in Madagascar must not fall a victim to these illusions. To win over or to eliminate the capitalists by mere persuasion, this has proven a futile attempt in France, in England and wherever workers have tried it. It would be more utopian a plan in a **colony**, like Madagascar where the French imperialists are absolute dictators.

The Cooperative can be useful to the Madagascar people in so far as it may help them to rally the native toiling masses to fight for their economic improvement and national independence. But in order to successfully carry through this fight, it will be necessary to organize a strong, powerful movement embracing all native peasants, and all workers of hand and brain. The must therefore build peasants' leagues, workers' unions and fight for their economic, political and social demands.

The French imperialists and their lackeys (like the editor of the reactionary paper, "**Union**", of Tamatave), besides using open force and intimidation, are also trying to undermine the growing anti-imperialist spirit in the island by playing out the various tribes against each other, creating artificial differences and distrust among them. But our comrades are not to be misled. They are openly refuting such attempts in their own revolutionary press. It is now up to them to proceed from anti-imperialist agitation and propaganda to the building up of a powerful **organization** for themselves. And it is the task of the revolutionary workers in France to do their utmost in supporting their brothers in Madagascar with advice and active help.

## TO OUR READERS

Beginning with the next issue of the "Negro Worker" we shall publish a series of articles analysing the effects of the present world crisis on the Negro masses in America, Africa and the West Indies, by **Cyril Briggs**, the well known Negro revolutionary journalist. No Negro worker or sincere fighter against imperialism should fail to read these articles.

Comrade Briggs will not only review the present situation in which the Negro masses find themselves in but, most important of all, he will show them the only way in which they can win national freedom and social emancipation.

If you do not yet get the "Negro worker", send us your name and address at once, so as to guarantee receiving future issues. A free copy will be mailed to you.



# Believe It Or Not

## Tribute From India

Every year £ 160,000,000 of capital is drawn from this pearl of British imperialism, the Indian "Empire". To make sure that this tribute continues and expands, terrific repressive measures have been taken against the workers and peasants throughout India; hundreds have been shot in cold blood, thousands more in demonstrations and tens of thousands have been imprisoned.

All rights of free organization, and Press, and meetings have been abolished.

## The Poor Pays For The Rich

A colonial Office Commission reports that in the British Colony of Mauritius the poor labourer's hut bears a tax of 12 per cent. of its value, while the planter's mansion pays only a tax of one per cent.

The words of the report are —:

"A field labourer's hut, built of wood, straw, and kerosene tins, worth at the outside figure £ 1, pays 1 s. 3 d., or, if divided into two rooms, 2 s. 6 d. — in the one case 6 per cent. and in the other 12 per cent. of its total value.

"A planter's or broker's mansion, with several acres of ground and gardens, assessed at £ 3,000, pays £ 30 or one per cent., of its value."

Even the Commissioners are forced to admit that "it is hardly an exaggeration to say that taxation in Mauritius is in inverse order of capacity to pay."

The peasant, with an income of £ 30, has £ 3 taken from him. The planter, with an income of £ 3,300, is taxed £ 275.

As everywhere, where the British flag flies in the tropics, white supremacy is maintained by a large force of troops and armed police.

## Slavery in South Africa

A new law has recently been enacted by the South African Parliament known as the **Service Contract Bill**. The aim of this Bill is to drive off the land those squatters who manage to eke out a semi-starvation existence on the small plots of land belonging to white farmers Land Companies and absentee landlords. The Bill gives the power to the Landowners and farmers to contract natives and their families for a period of six months without pay by preventing the natives from cultivating their small pieces of land; it eliminates the competition of the small native peasantry and provides the feudal slave owners with unpaid labor, thus enabling them to compete on the world market. It chains the native to the farmer, for it provides the farmer with the right to whip his servant, either if he breaks his contract or is insolent, and thus under S.A. conditions murdering and whipping of natives becomes sanctioned by law. At first the Whipping clause was to be applied to natives under 18 only, but due to its great "popularity" among the farmers, it will be extended to natives over 18 years of age.

## Blacks Not Wanted — in London!

Oluwole Ayodele Alakaya, the coloured nephew of the reigning Prince of Abeokuta, Nigeria, West Africa, who is an Oxford graduate and a student at the Middle Temple, sued a West End hotel at Marylebone County Court, and was awarded £ 12 alleging that he was refused admission.

According to the "Daily Herald" of 2/3/32, Alakaya wrote a letter to the



hotel, where he engaged rooms. On his arrival he was shown to his room, and had commenced unpacking his trunks, when he was told by the manageress that she was sorry, but they had not room for him.

**It came out that the real reason why he was told that was the fact that he had concealed from them that he was a man of colour.**

Miss Grace Foster, book-keeper at the New Mansions Hotels, said. "I did not expect to see an African gentleman. There had been nothing in the correspondence to suggest it. It was quite English."

Mr. John Thomas Warren, the proprietor, said if Mr. Alakya had mentioned in his letter that he was an African he would never have offered him accommodation.

**"It would ruin my business", said Mr. Warren.**

This case should serve as an eye opener to Negro workers in Africa and the West Indies who are made to believe that the British capitalist class is different to the American. It is high time Negroes begin to remove their blinkers and learn who are their friends, and who their enemies.

\* \* \*

### **Profits From Africa**

The Equatorial Mining Company (French) has increased its capital from 6,500,000 francs to 20,000,000 in five years. This mining company of Congo has increased its capital from 1,000,000 francs in 1906 to 25,000,000 francs in 1925. The Shangha Unbangi Company increased its capital from 12,000,000 francs in 1911 to 36,000,000 francs in 1925. The Forestry Company of Sanga Unbangi realized a profit in 1926 of 8,000,000 francs nett and 3,000,000 more for liquidation of debt, that is to say, 11,000,000 francs.

The British Imperialists have done even better. The Ropp Tin Ltd. of Nigeria, in West Africa, has paid out to its shareholders between 1913 and 1928, 800 per cent. on their shares. Between 1922 and 1926 the Ex-Lands Nigeria Ltd., paid out 117.5 per cent. on its shares. The Kaduna Syndicate Ltd. paid 435 per cent on its 1917 capital in the following nine years. The Royal Niger Co. expanded its capital from £675,000 in 1913 to £9,750,000 in 1926.

The "Berliner Tageblatt" reports the profits of the Unilever Co., that produces margarine out of African products. The profits were £4,304,217 in the year 1930. It must be remembered that this was a year of unprecedented crisis.

The colonial profits are derived essentially through the exploitation of slave and forced labour, a good part of these slaves being children. The various governments, including those headed by the Social Democrats like MacDonald, enforce the various systems of slavery and forced labour, despite all kinds of laws and legislation to the contrary. Slavery is admitted to exist in English Sierra Leone, in Abyssinia, Liberia (under U.S. protection), French Equatorial Africa, Belgian Congo, Portuguese Africa, in the Spanish and Italian possessions, and even in Egypt and Palestine.

\* \* \*

### **Two Die for Theft of Fifty Cents.**

The first death penalty for larceny in the history of the state of Alabama was carried thru here on March 11th when Percy Irvin and Isaac Mims, two Negro workers were burned in the electric chair for — the theft of 50 cents!

The execution occurred shortly after midnight in Kilby Prison, where the nine young Scottsboro boys are also held. The sentence against these two workers recalls the death sentence meted out some months ago to John Moore, jobless Negro worker of Winston-Salem, N.C., for the theft of a pair of wornout shoes. The death sentence in the case of Moore was later commuted to life imprisonment.



# Negro Miners in South Africa

By James Warren

In dealing with the conditions of the mines in South Africa, it becomes imperative first of all to show the peculiar conditions which the imperialists have created in order to ensure for themselves a source of adequate supply of labour.

South Africa is primarily an agricultural country; but with the development of its chief industry, mining, the predatory imperialists have put into operation a policy of dispossessing the toiling masses of the means of subsistence, and the creation of a standing industrial reserve army of labour. The natives were robbed of their land, being left with small and unfertile strips of land hardly adequate to accommodate a fourth of their population. These strips of land are the so-called reserves.

Repressive laws are passed by parliament, annually prohibiting the lease of land to native farmers and squatters. Numerous imperio-feudal taxation laws add misery and degradation to the existing intolerable conditions. Under these circumstances intensified by military measures the natives are compelled to work for low wages; they are indentured on long term contracts—nine or twelve months—cut off completely from their families until the termination of these contracts, given rotten food and forced to live in filthy, stinking and over crowded compounds.

The peculiar forms of capitalist exploitations of the native miners, stand unique in history compared with any other miners in the capitalist world. In spite of the high daily accident and mine phthisis which affects enormous numbers every year; no compensation benefit exists. As soon as signs of phthisis are discernable on a native worker, the doctor immediately orders his discharge—without giving him a hint about the sickness and no compensation. Hundreds are killed, entombed and mutilated annually but nothing is given them or their dependents. Those who are maimed, are thrown out of work and thus become the burden to their dependents.

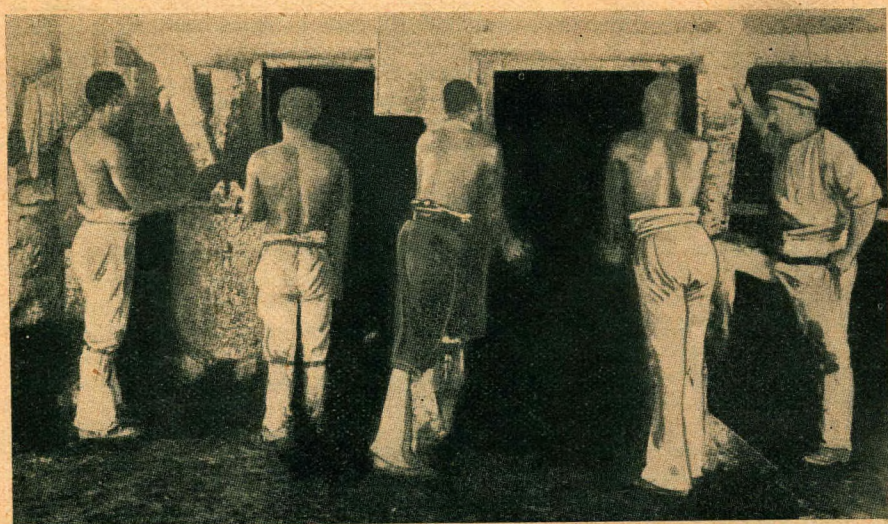
The Government official statistics gives us the following figures of natives killed and injuries in accidents: 1929 killed 793, injured 8,356. For 1930, killed 872, injured 9,253. But when we look at these "official" figures and take the concrete situation, having the knowledge of the daily events in the mines, then we conclude that something is radically wrong with them. Furthermore the "official" statistics does not give us the actual death rate other than of accidents— as if people were not dying yearly by the hundreds, as result of the rotten, scanty food and bad sanitation. How about the diggings? Did the government not introduce again its dipping system: "in order to save the native people from the perilous disease?" If so, where are the "official" figures? (In South Africa, the system of dipping is not only applied to animals but also to the native people.)

The working day is from twelve to fourteen hours of absolute hard labour with some one standing with a whip behind; brutally kicking and cursing them. The law recognizes no skilled native. He may be as skilled as the white workers but the laws of the Union of South Africa, by its notorious Colour Bar denies him the right of being skilled. Regardless of the fact that he performs skilled work, his wages remain the same as that of a common labourer. The native miner is used for boring the hard rock underground with a jumper and hammer, which owing to the awkward conditions in which the labourer has to work, lying on his back the whole day in the water boring above his face, is not only exhaustive but also physically dangerous. The drillers are supposed to be paid per piece of twelve inches at the rate of sixpence. But if one fails to drill three holes his ticket is marked loafer (zero) in which case he forfeits his day's wages.



With the introduction of modern drill-bore, which is noted for efficiency, when the workers are being speeded-up and the work more and more intensified, the "gang" has been reduced considerably. The drillers of yesterday are today strolling up and down the streets of the mining towns seeking not only work and bread, but also for a place to sleep.

Not satisfied with these methods of exploitation, the capitalists introduced a new system of robbery; a system of deferred payment by which a major portion of the native workers' wages are held back and invested in the banks in the interest of capitalists' who draw huge interest from it. This system of pay is known to the whole state machinery, from C.I.D. Police to magistrate. This system is ruinous to the native workers since they can never get the exact amount kept back from their wages.



*In the Diamond Mines of Kimberley, South Africa*

The exploitation of the native workers in the mines has been supported by chauvinistic cries of "white supremacy" of the bourgeois politicians and labour aristocrats. The labour aristocrats in the mines have consciously assisted the exploitation of the natives; they act as overseers driving the "boys" for the highest labour out-put. While the wages of the white workers in normal times have increased from 21 to 25 shillings those of the Negro workers have fallen from 2,6d to 1,6d per day. The standard of living of the white workers was kept up at the expense of the Negro workers by means of the so-called civilized labour policy, a policy of super-exploitation of the imperialists and the social fascists in the colonies. The Civilized labour policy originated from the so-called pact of Colonel Cresswell leader of the South African Labour Party and General Hertzog leader of the Nationalist Party and now Prime Minister of South Africa. This policy was formulated after the 1922 upheavals, by the social fascists and nationalists against the South African Party then in power. The essence of this policy is to "employ white men at white men's wage in all enterprises and drive all the "niggers out of industry". A demagoguery to further divide the black and white workers.



The year 1930-31, exposed to the white workers of South Africa the real meaning of "white supremacy and civilized labour"; namely that it was a smoke screen for attacking the standards of both white and black workers. That with the deepening economic crisis, all round economy, short time, wage cuts and dismissals take the place of "white supremacy". Only then did the white workers in the mines begin to realize that the real "menace" to their livelihood was not the black workers but the imperialists. The workers are daily thrown on to the scrap-heap. The mines are resorting to short-time some are closing down the shafts and in some extreme cases recourse has been had to one shift only. The coal-miners in Natal are facing starvation, and the lives of our "prosperous" diamond diggers in Namaqualand, Port Nollforth and the Western Transvaal are threatened, while the native workers are hardly able to earn the miserable pittance of 5,- a week. Even the report of the chairman of "De Beers", one of the largest diamond mines in South Africa an perhaps the richest in the world expresses alarm.

The conditions of the black miners are worse than ever before. The imperialists mine magnates in South Africa are carrying on a big campaign for substantial wage-cuts and other economy measures at the expense of the workers, especially Negro workers. The African Federation of Trade Unions, the South African section of the R.I.L.U. is mobilizing the workers against the offensive of the capitalists. The reformists trade union bureaucrats, in this situation, are assisting the employers in this offensive. The workers are learning that they cannot place any faith in these fakirs who will not fight for their interests. The Red Trade Unions on the other hand are proving their devotion to the cause of the working class-are becoming the real leaders of the economic struggles of the workers.

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*British Soldiers helping the Japanese in Shanghai*



# Socialism is only a Matter of Time

By Aug. J. EGYIR-BENYARKU.

Editor's Note:

We reprint this article from the "**Gold Coast Spectator**" of March 12, 1932, merely to indicate the spirit of unrest which is becoming more and more widespread on the African continent. The author shows the mood in which the native petty-bourgeoisie finds itself in, thanks to the most catastrophic crisis which the Gold Coast has ever experienced. This has caused great pauperisation among the peasantry and mass unemployment among the workers, added to which the imperialist rulers are trying to increase taxation. These factors are causing the native middle class to express dissatisfaction with the present economic system.

We draw the attention of the author, as well as our readers to the "Study Corner" in this issue, which will throw much light upon some of the questions which perplex Mr. Egyir-Benyarku, who, although recognizing that the present system has brought untold misery to millions of workers all over the world, does not seem to understand the fundamental contradictions of capitalism which can only be solved under a socialist form of society as is being built in Soviet Russia today.

\* \* \*

Thinking people recognize that a new era in the evolution of the race has been ushered in. It is literally true that old things, old superstitions, old prejudices, age-long barriers, are giving way and that unrest everywhere is an evidence of the dawning of a new day.

We, in Africa (Gold Coast in particular), are facing exceptionally hard times due to the widespread trade depression and its attendant unemployment which prevail throughout this country. We live in an Industrial State and are very much affected by the depression which I believe is felt by almost everyone. There can be no question about the dearth of real statesmen in places of power today. Democracy and similar forms of Government can never be the panaceas their founders claimed them to be, at least not so when any politician who possesses money runs a campaign to hold office.

It is obvious that the world is badly misruled at the present moment. I think there can be little doubt that the world is now reaping the fruit of inordinate greed which has so characterized the Capitalist system. The present economic condition is, I believe, due to something more than a mere slackening of trade. It prognosticates the downfall of Capitalism, and there seems to be little hope unless the whole world embraces the teaching of Christ, not merely to profess it but also to live and think in it. The advent of Socialism is only a matter of time. Let us hope great minds will rise to administer the new conditions.

Closely examining the present day happenings on the Gold Coast, one can find that the depression that is plaguing the whole world has affected the Gold Coast severely. Conditions are frightfully oppressive. Hundreds of able-bodied people are unable to get work of any sort, and the country is facing actual starvation at the same time that the farmers cannot dispose of their crops at good prices. There is something fundamentally wrong with our civilization and that something is, I believe, the Capitalist Organization of society. I look forward to the time when the means by which men live will be owned and controlled by associations rather than by individuals working in their own interests, and when production will be carried out for the use and benefit of the people at large and at huge profits. If something of this sort cannot be achieved, civilization will smash up completely and the world will revert to barbarism and a new "Dark Age".



We the new generation of the Gold Coast should possess the wonderful means to bring to ourselves success and power. Vitality of our brains should not be frittered away by worry, bad temper, jealousy, hatred or kinkred evil emotions. Our activities must be alway along constructive line, so that our intellect should grow like a flourishing tree of the forest.

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## They Shall Not Die!

Every worker—white and colored, man and woman, employed and unemployed, all those who are oppressed by exploitation, poverty and hunger,—must realize the significance of the day set for the burning to death of the seven Negro boys in Alabama, U. S. A.

The Scottsboro case, which has already become one of the most outstanding instances of frameups in America history, is now in its second year. It was on March 25, 1931, that the nine young Negro workers were arrested and charged with the rape of two white prostitutes taken off the same train as that on which the Negro boys were riding. Several of the boys were under fourteen years of age.

On April 6, last year, after a farcical trial eight of the boys were sentenced to death while the ninth—a child of 13—escaped death only because one juror held out for life imprisonment. This child will again be tried, with the government demanding his execution.

Under the leadership of the International Labour Defense, the workers of the U. S. A., reinforced by the toiling masses throughout the world, rallied to the defense of the innocent Negro boys. The best of the world intelligentsia including such writers as Maxim Gorky and Romain Rolland, together with eminent professors and scientists, joined their passionate voices to this protest.

In that other never-to-be-forgotten monstrous crime perpetrated by the American capitalists—the murder of Sacco and Vanzetti,—the vengeance of the ruling class was directed against militant revolutionaries. In the Scottsboro case this vengeance is directed against boys whose only crime is that they are of the persecuted, oppressed Negro race.

Due to the mighty protest raised by millions of toilers the electrocution which had been set for July 10, last year, was postponed. The second act of the horrible farce then tarted. The appeal to the Supreme Court of the State of Alabama was overruled, as had been expected. The only difference is that seven are to be certainly executed while the eighth—a 14-year old boy—is to be tried again.

These seven youths were to be executed on May 13th! The execution is necessary in order to sustain the prestige of the bloody American ruling class justice! It is demanded by the banks and stock exchanges. It is in accordance with the desires of the American capitalist class. But the execution has again being slayed, thanks to world wide wave of protest which has reached the Governor of Alabama and the quick steps again taken to appeal the ruling of the Alabama judges to the Supreme Court of the Unites States. However if we do not rescue our young comrades they will be lynched on June.

The economic crisis has undermined the prosperity of the American dollar-kings,—descendants of the slave-owners. They seek a way out of the crisis and the regaining of their former prosperity through further attacks on the standard of living of the toiling masses by means of the white terror. At the same time they are using this terror as part of their preparation for war. Out of the bones of their white and black hired slaves they are trying to build a dam against the rising tide of proletarian revolution.



Every toiler, where he may be or whatever kind of labour he may be engaged in, all those who are oppressed by exploitation, poverty and hunger,—must understand the class nature of the Scottsboro case.

What are the Alabama state judges but the hirelings of that same capitalist system which oppresses you? In them you can recognize those who stifle your slightest protest and least effort at bettering your own intolerable conditions of life and work. In them you can recognize those who would hurl you into the fiery cauldron of war as cannon-fodder for their profits and who fear more than all else your solidarity with the toilers of the Soviet Union, against whom world capitalism is preparing war.

The butchers who intend on June to burn the seven working class Negro children on the electric chair are the friends and allies of the capitalists of Europe and of the whole world. They are the friends and allies of the police, gendarmes, and fascist murderers who are so active in your own countries.

Arise in mighty protest!

Demand the immediate liberation of the Scottsboro boys. Let the dastardly pack of hirelings of the dollar, franc and pound sterling, see that tens of millions of proletarian families of all nationalities and races are rallying closely around their class brothers — the seven innocent Negro boys.

All your actions, strikes, demonstrations and hunger marches must be permeated with the spirit of the struggle for the liberation of the Scottsboro prisoners.

With an unprecedented mass mobilization on the most enormous scale of all their forces the workers of the world must beat back this attack of the slave-driving American capitalist against the toiling Negro masses and rescue these innocent Negro boys from the hands of the murderers.

Workers of the World! This horrible crime must not be allowed to take place. It is your united strength which shall prevent it.

Let your voices be heard.



THEY SHALL NOT DIE!!!



# In the Land of Socialism



*Free Russian Workers Building their Own Factories*



*Red Army Men in the Soviet Union Studying Scientific Agriculture*



**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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# Our Study Corner

## Capitalist Crisis — Imperialist War — And the Workers' Way Out.

The terrific crisis in the capitalist world is growing worse. The capitalist class are seeking the most desperate remedies for this crisis.

In France unemployment increased last year by 523 per cent. In Germany 24 per cent. in Italy 53 per cent., in Britain 7 per cent. In America there are 12 millions unemployed.

In the colonies the situation is even much worse.

### What is the immediate cause of this crisis?

More goods have been produced than the capitalist class can sell at a profit. For under capitalism the workers and small peasants in the "mother-countries", and less yet in the colonies, can never receive an income sufficient to keep themselves and their families. These masses who produce all the wealth of the earth with their own hands, do not gain enough to buy back from their exploiters even the bare necessities of life.

Hence food, raw materials, and manufactured goods are piled up on the one hand, while million upon million of unemployed workers and ruined small farmers are starving.

### What is the reason for this?

The main reason is that the capitalist system of society cannot plan the production and distribution of wealth. Wealth production is carried on by separate competing groups of capitalists all engaged in scrambling for the market.

The result is that there is chaos. More is produced than the market can absorb. Production comes to a stop.

In the past the capitalists have busied themselves with cutting wages and social services, and waiting until the goods have been cleared off and a new era of prosperity comes. Now they see that they must do much more than this.

### Why this crisis is different.

#### Why must they do much more than this?

Because this breakdown of trade and industry is happening in a world which is very different from the world of 1914.

#### What is the difference?

The first difference is that capitalism today has only five-sixths of the area to expand and trade in that it had in 1914.

On the remaining one-sixth of the world the Soviet Union is building up Socialism—organizing production for the benefit of the workers, not the profits of the parasites.

#### Is that the only difference?

No, another great difference is the colossal revolution, the struggle of the workers in countries like India and China to free themselves from the native exploiters and win the independence of their country.

"There is a vital weakness in the economic struggle of the world. It is not war. It is not pestilence; there was no great cataclysm of nature. What then is this profound weakness? I will try to answer that question in a single word—Asia. ... China is plunged in anarchy. India is shaking with unrest and insecurity." — Winston Churchill, House of Commons, February 18.

#### How does this affect the capitalist class of the imperialist countries, like England, France, U. S. A.?

The great mass struggles in the colonies further dry up the income which (already reduced by the crisis) the capitalist class draws from the colonies. Thus



in the last two years the income which the British capitalist class drew from the colonies, from shipping, etc., fell by £186,000,000 per annum.

A further result. During former crisis the capitalists sought to escape from the situation in which they were placed by opening up new countries as markets for their goods, as places in which they could invest their capital. Now they have to meet the fierce resistance of the colonial masses in rebellion.

**Yes, that is clear. Is there any other difference in the position today from that of pre-war?**

Yes, the capitalist countries have been divided into victors and vanquished. The victors have, in the words of R. H. Brand, the banker, "sucked other nations dry".

Further, the desperate nature of the crisis, the struggle for markets intensifying the danger of war among the capitalists themselves.

Last, but not least, the working-class is not the same as it was in 1914.

It has passed through many experiences. It is more militant. Under the influence of the crisis it is beginning to move forward to challenge capitalism. In countries like Germany the revolutionary movement has reached a high stage.

### **Capitalists Seek a way out.**

**What are the capitalist Governments doing in order to escape from the situation?**

They are at one and the same time attacking all the forces which are threatening the existence of capitalism.

In Britain wage-cuts of over 25 million have taken place in 1931; £25,000,000 per year is being saved at the expense of the unemployed.

Taxes are now being put on almost every item of food. Workers who organize the struggle against this robbery are thrown into prison. This is only the beginning of their drive.

Simultaneously a reign of terror is launched against the Indian masses. People are shot down every day; 14,000 are imprisoned. A censorship is imposed to hide the truth from the British workers.

**So you might say that Britain is doing the same in India as Japan is doing in China?**

Yes, but you must remember that Britain is also taking a leading position in China. It wants to grab a big chunk of China for itself to develop it as a market. It wants to suppress the revolutionary movement in China, which is hindering this.

**Are all the other imperialists agreed on this?**

They are all agreed on the need for suppressing the revolutionary movement in the colonies.

There is profound disagreement among them as to the sharing out of the spoils.

The U.S.A., for example, wants not to divide China up so as to keep the greater part of China united behind the Nanking Government, which the U.S.A. is seeking to control. This would make China an U.S.A. colony.

### **Menace to U.S.S.R.**

**If the Japanese and American imperialists are quarrelling in China and France and Britain are supporting Japan, won't they be so busy fighting among themselves that they will have no time to attack the U.S.S.R.?**

On the contrary, the more the imperialist rivalries increase, the nearer they are driven to war, the more they appreciate the danger to capitalism, which such a war would create.



A war between the imperialists at a time when the Soviet Union is going magnificently ahead, when the colonies are in revolt, when the workers are fiercely resisting the capitalist attack, might be disastrous for the imperialists.

Strange as it may seem, therefore, the more they are driven to quarrel among themselves, the more the policy of dropping their quarrels in favour of an attack on the U.S.S.R., leading to the opening up of Russia as a market for capitalism, finds favour.

In this particular situation, for example, the U.S.A. might ultimately agree to Japan's annexation of Manchuria, provided she expanded towards Soviet Mongolia and Siberia and not into other parts of China, ruled by the Nanking Government.

### **Crisis Reaches War Phase.**

But aren't all the imperialist Powers in such a desperate position financially that they will be reluctant to let the war on China develop into a large-scale war on that country, let alone a war on the U.S.S.R.?

On the contrary it is the very desperateness of the situation that is driving the capitalists to seek a way out of the crisis by war.

They have waited for two years for improvements. Things are getting worse. They must act.

They must get markets, hence the attack on the revolutionary movement in the Colonies, the war on China, the drive to war against the U.S.S.R.

### **The Workers' Reply.**

So in trying to get out of the mess the capitalists are robbing us, murdering the Chinese, driving to a new world war. What can we do to stop this?

We can work for the unity of the workers in every country with all the forces which are working against this decaying robber system.

We can unite our struggles with the struggles of the Russian workers building Socialism and we can unite the struggles of the workers in the "mother countries" with the struggles of the Colonial peoples.

**Yes, that is easier said than done. How can it be done?**

Take the railways and shipping lines as an example. The workers are anxious to resist further wage-cuts. They can do this by building up a powerful rank-and-file movement of resistance.

They can win the branches and groups for struggle. The militant branches and the active workers inside the depots and on the ships can work to get powerful committees elected to prepare for resistance to the wage-cut.

If the militants show their fellow-workers the relation between the war in China and their own struggles, then this rank-and-file organization must be used to stop the transport of munitions and troops to China and to link up with the unemployed and the workers in other industries in a big drive to stop munitions and withdraw troops. The same applies to all other workers.

**But if you block capitalism getting out of the mess by wage-cuts and war, what then,**

Then its attacks grow fiercer. It seeks to break the resistance of the working-class in the metropolies and of the Colonial people. It drives against the U.S.S.R.

This will present the workers of all countries with the necessity of lining up with the workers of Russia to seek their way out of this situation of hunger and slavery and war, by overthrowing capitalism and developing the Socialist society, which can alone guarantee world peace and plenty and freedom.



# What is the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers?

The Negro Workers Committee was formed in July 1930 at an international conference of Negro toilers held in Hamburg, Germany. The Committee is not a race, but a **class organization**, organizing and leading the fight in the interests of Negro workers in Africa, the West Indies and other colonies.

The aims of the Committee are as follows:

1. Abolition of Forced Labour, Peonage and Slavery.
2. Equal Pay for Equal Work — Irrespective of Race, Colour or Sex.
3. Eight Hour Day.
4. Government Relief for Unemployed, — free rent, no taxes.
5. Freedom to organize trade unions, unemployed councils and peasant committees, — right to strike.
6. Against racial barriers in trade unions and colour bar in industry.
7. Against capitalist terror — lynching, police and soldier terrorism, arrest and deportation of foreign workers.
8. Against confiscation of peasant and communal lands, against taxation of the Negro workers and peasants.
9. To promote and develop the spirit of international solidarity between the workers of all colours and nationalities.
10. To agitate and organize the Negro workers against the imperialist war in China and the intervention in Soviet Russia, in which the white capitalist exploiters intend to use black workers as cannon-fodder as they did in the last war.
11. To defend the independence of Liberia, Haiti and other Negro States and to fight for the full independence of the Negro toilers in Africa and the West Indies, and their right of self-determination in the Black Belt of U.S.A.
12. The Committee also fights against white chauvinism, (race prejudice) social-reformism and the reformist programmes of the Negro capitalist misleaders, and the missionaries, preachers and other agents of imperialism.

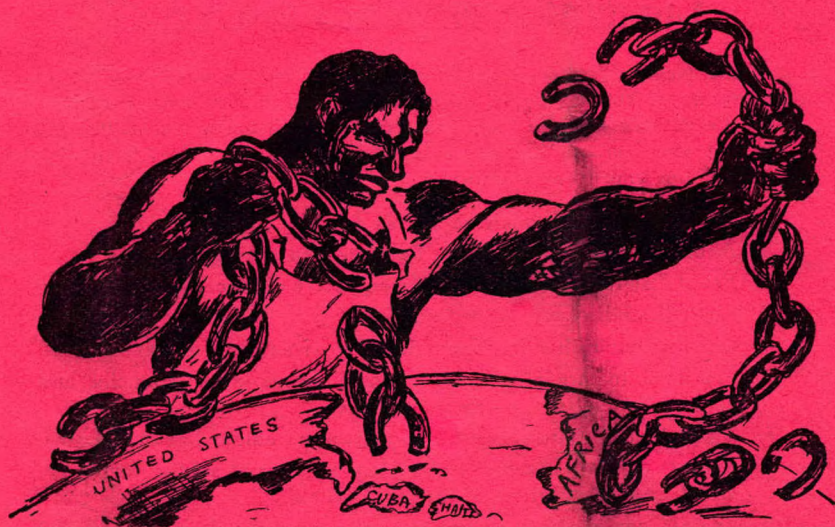
These misleaders, instead of organizing the Negro masses to fight for their freedom are the very ones who help the capitalists by preaching obedience, and loyalty to imperialist rule:

**Negro Workers, organize the fight against imperialism!**

**Support the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement!**

**Fight for the Freedom of the Working Class!**





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**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

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*Location:- Johannesburg*

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